

February 1, 2004

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SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
National Ocean Service Kihei Facility Project
TMK: (2) 3-9-001:087

Thank you for your comments on our Draft Environmental Assessment for the National Ocean Service (NOS) Kihei Facility Project (KFP). We appreciate your time and effort in detailing your concerns to us on this project. Please find our specific responses to your comments below:

1. Although any new construction will have some effect on current wind patterns, the KFP Team believes that the proposed building will not adversely alter the natural airflow. The direction of the prevailing wind is from the north with occasional Kona winds from the south. We have not performed a wind study and are not required to do so under County of Maui regulations. We believe that the roof of the new building will act like an airplane wing (airfoil) which means that the wind will lift up and over the roof and then back down. In addition, we feel that any impact would be negated by the time the wind crosses the parking lot and South Kihei Road.

In designing the building, we took into consideration the uses of the building specifically for evening lectures. It is our belief that to provide maximum comfort during the Sanctuary's evening lectures that air conditioning is necessary. The air conditioning units are designed for each specific area (i.e., one for the administration area and one for the multi-purpose room). The air conditioning will be used only when necessary.

2. We agree that the construction of the building will impact the view plane for some of our neighbors. During the past seven years the Sanctuary has removed numerous Kiawe trees along the shoreline, which has created the wonderful viewsheds all of us have enjoyed.

3. We believe that the proposed construction will not adversely increase the noise or lighting in the neighborhood. The Sanctuary will continue its present practice of limiting functions to no later than 10:00 p.m. We are looking into increasing our security coverage. We are continuing to work with the County of Maui to develop the best methods to address parking issues that affect both of us.

4. We agree that the Sanctuary property is a gem, and it's our intention that the new construction will enhance this site by providing a much-needed facility for the functions of both the Sanctuary and the community. If you have ever had the pleasure of attending one of our evening lectures, you are well aware that we are indeed in need of a larger facility.

On a final note, we apologize for any misunderstanding that occurred concerning our open house. It is our belief that the flyer clearly stated the purpose of the event. In addition, we issued a press release, and a legal notice appeared in the Maui News on March 19, 2003.

We will not be holding any more public meetings but are always available to talk with our neighbors about the project. I can be reached by phone at 879-2818 or e-mail Claire.Cappelle@noaa.gov. We have been in contact with Ms. Barbara Kojima to schedule a presentation for your fellow homeowners after one of the Board meetings of the Kihei Bay Surf Association.

Again, thank you for your comments and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Claire Cappelle
KFP Responsible Program Manager &
Maui County Liaison